

I. Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A positive displacement valve for use in a hydraulic circuit, the positive displacement valve comprising:

a pair of longitudinally-moveable, spaced-apart pistons, each operatively connected by longitudinal shaft means to each other so that movement of one piston causes an equal movement of the other, each situated within a corresponding cylinder member, the cylinder members arranged in juxtaposed relation to each other, each cylinder member having mutually opposed ends and an aperture proximate each of the opposite ends thereof so as to permit ingress and egress of pressurized hydraulic fluid; and

piston phasing means integral with at least one of the cylinder members and operable to permit egress of at least some of the pressurized hydraulic fluid that is ingressing into the cylinder member.

23. (previously presented) The positive displacement valve of Claim 22, the cylinder members each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in the at least one of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of the at least one of the cylinder members.

24. (previously presented) The positive displacement valve of Claim 22 wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in each of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other, and situated proximate at least one end of each of the cylinder members.

25. (previously presented) The positive displacement valve of Claim 23 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end of the at least one of the cylinder members is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

26. (previously presented) The positive displacement valve of Claim 23 further comprising a check valve in fluid communication with one of the pair of apertures for restricting reverse flow of hydraulic fluid.

27. (previously presented) The positive displacement valve of Claim 26 wherein the one of the pair of apertures is the aperture of the pair of apertures most remote from the end of the at least one of the cylinder members which the pair of apertures are situated proximate.

28. (currently amended) A hydraulic platform lift for use with a truck or truck trailer, the hydraulic platform lift comprising:

a platform member having two opposite side edges;

first and second hydraulic cylinders each having a piston member therein, each of said first and second hydraulic cylinders operatively coupled to a respective side edge of said platform member to permit raising and lowering of said platform member;

pump means for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders via a positive displacement means;

said positive displacement means comprising a pair of longitudinally-moveable, spaced-apart pistons, each operatively connected by longitudinal shaft means to each other so that movement of one piston causes an equal movement of the other, each situated within a corresponding cylinder member, the cylinder members arranged in juxtaposed relation to each other, each cylinder member having mutually opposed ends and an aperture proximate each of the opposite ends thereof so as to permit ingress and egress of pressurized hydraulic fluid; and

piston phasing means integral with at least one of the cylinder members of said positive displacement means, and operable to permit egress of at least some of the pressurized hydraulic fluid that is ingressing into the cylinder member.

29. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 28, the cylinder members each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in the at least one of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of the at least one of the cylinder members.

30. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 28 wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in each of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other, and situated proximate at least one end of each of the cylinder members.

31. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 29 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

32. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 29 further comprising a check valve in fluid communication with one of the pair of apertures for restricting reverse flow of hydraulic fluid.

33. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 32 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end of the at least one of the cylinder members is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

34. (currently amended) A hydraulic platform lift for use with a truck or truck trailer, the hydraulic platform lift comprising:

a platform member having two opposite side edges;

first and second hydraulic cylinders each having a piston member therein, each of said first and second hydraulic cylinders operatively coupled to a respective side edge of said platform member to permit raising and lowering of said platform member;

pump means for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders via a positive displacement means;

said positive displacement means comprising a pair of longitudinally-moveable, spaced-apart pistons, each operatively connected by longitudinal shaft means to each other so that movement of one piston causes an equal movement of the other, each situated within a corresponding cylinder member, the cylinder members arranged in juxtaposed relation to each other, each cylinder member having mutually opposed ends and an aperture proximate each of the opposite ends thereof so as to permit ingress and egress of pressurized hydraulic fluid; and

piston phasing means integral with at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and operable to permit egress of at least some of the pressurized hydraulic fluid that is ingressing into the hydraulic cylinder.

35. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 34, the hydraulic cylinders each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in the at least one of the hydraulic cylinders, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of the at least one of the hydraulic cylinders.

36. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 34 wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in each of the hydraulic cylinders, spaced apart from each other, and situated proximate at least one end of each of the hydraulic cylinders.

37. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 35 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

38. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 35 further comprising a check valve in fluid communication with one of the pair of apertures for restricting reverse flow of hydraulic fluid.

39. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 38 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end of the at least one of the hydraulic cylinders is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

40. (currently amended) A hydraulic platform lift for use with a truck or truck trailer, the hydraulic platform lift comprising:

a platform member having two opposite side edges;

first and second hydraulic cylinders each having a piston member therein, each of said first and second hydraulic cylinders operatively coupled to a respective side edge of said platform member to permit raising and lowering of said platform member;

pump means for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to said hydraulic cylinders via a positive displacement means;

said positive displacement means comprising a pair of longitudinally-moveable, spaced-apart pistons, each operatively connected by longitudinal shaft means to each other so that movement of one piston causes an equal movement of the other, each situated within a corresponding cylinder member, the cylinder members arranged in juxtaposed relation to each other, each cylinder member having mutually opposed ends and an aperture proximate each of the opposite ends thereof so as to permit ingress and egress of pressurized hydraulic fluid; and

piston phasing means integral with at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and operable to permit egress of at least some of the pressurized hydraulic fluid that is ingressing into the hydraulic cylinder; and

piston phasing means integral with at least one of the cylinder members of said positive displacement means and operable to permit egress of at least some of the pressurized hydraulic fluid that is ingressing into the cylinder member.

41. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 40, the hydraulic cylinders and cylinder members each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and at least one of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of each of the at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and the at least one of the cylinder members.

42. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 40, the hydraulic cylinders and cylinder members each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and in each of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of the at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and proximate at least one end of each of the cylinder members.

43. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 40, the hydraulic cylinders and cylinder members each having a longitudinal axis, wherein the piston phasing means comprise a pair of apertures in each of the hydraulic cylinders and in at least one of the cylinder members, spaced apart from each other on the longitudinal axis, proximate at least one end of each of the hydraulic cylinders and proximate at least one end of the at least one of the cylinder members.

44. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 41 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end of at least one of the hydraulic cylinders and the at least one of the cylinder members is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.

45. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 41 further comprising a check valve in fluid communication with one of the pair of apertures for restricting reverse flow of hydraulic fluid.

46. (previously presented) The hydraulic platform lift of Claim 45 wherein the one of the pair of apertures most proximate the at least one end of the at least one of the hydraulic members and the at least one of the cylinder members is larger in area than the other of the pair of apertures.